

SOKE OF PETERBOROUGH COUNTY COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER  
FOR THE YEAR 1941.  
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List of Members of the Public Health and Housing and  
Mental Deficiency, Mental Treatment, Maternity and  
Child Welfare and Midwives Acts Committee :-

<u>County Aldermen</u>	J.T. Briggs, The Most Noble The Marquess of Exeter, K.G. C.M.G.	
<u>County Councillors</u>	P. Adams, G.H. Allen, The Rev. W.H. Barry, Mrs M.C. Cook, J.R. Horrell, G.P. Little.	W. Neaverson, A.J. Nutt, Mrs M. Pailing, G.T. Vawser, Miss E.J. Warwick,
<u>Co-opted Members</u>	Mrs Mansfield The Hon. Mrs G. Pelham.	Mrs M.H. Slater,

Directions from the Ministry of Health state that, although the total population of the County may be stated, that of the constituent councils must be omitted.

It has been found impossible to issue the comparability factor, owing to the variety and magnitude of local population movements and the uncertain incidence of civilian war deaths.

Up to the present no reports from the City of Peterborough have been received for the years 1939, 1940, and 1941.

Population for the year 1941 of the County of the Soke of Peterborough is 59,110, as compared with 56,660 for calculating birth rates, and 56,940 for calculating death rates in 1940.

Births. The births for the year 1941 are as follows :-  
For calculating the birth rate 836; for calculating infant mortality 857. The birth rate for the Soke of Peterborough is 14.1.

There were 52 illegitimate births, 15 more than in 1940.

There were 46 stillbirths, as compared with 26 in 1940, a rate of .77 per 1000 of the population.

In England and Wales as a whole the birth rate was 14.2; in the 126 Great Towns 14.7; in the 148 smaller towns 16.4, and in London 8.9. The stillbirth rate for England and Wales as a whole was 0.51; for the 126 Great Towns 0.58; for the 148 smaller towns 0.60, and for London 0.33.

## EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	Legitimate	Males	385;	Females	399;	Total	784
	Illegitimate	"	25;	"	27;	"	52
	Total	"	410;	"	426;	"	836

### BIRTH RATE 14.1

Stillbirths      Males 20.   Females   26.   Total   46

Rate per 1000 total births   52.1.

Deaths            Males 347.   Females   324.   Total   671.

### DEATH RATE 11.3

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age per 1000 live births

Legitimate	46	Rate	57.1
Illegitimate	3	"	57.7
Total	49	"	57.1

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth :-

From sepsis	0
From other causes	4
Deaths from measles (all ages)	2
" " whooping cough "	4
" " diarrhoea (under 2 yrs)	1

The rateable value of the County on the 1st April 1941 was £378,083.  
The sum represented by a penny rate for 1941-42 was £1,496.

### MIDWIVES

Since my last Report was written there have been one or two changes in the midwifery service. Nurse Stamper has been appointed to undertake midwifery work in the Helpston and Barnack areas, and Nurse Eggett has been appointed to fill the vacancy caused by Nurse Ireland's resignation.

The number of cases attended by each midwife in 1941 was as follows :-

<u>Midwife</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Cases attended as</u>	
		<u>Midwife.</u>	<u>Maternity Nurse</u>
G.S. Clement,	60 Russell Street, Peterborough	55	23
M. Ireland,	80, Harris Street	31	33
D.M. Battson,	5, Marholm Rd, Walton	19	34
E. Evans,	2, London Road	44	34
M. Meyers,	343, Eastfield Road	20	30
J.H. Jones,	Meadowbank, Eye Rd, Newark	31	33
A.R. Stamper,	Helpston,	29	19
A.V. Sydee,	30, Exeter Road	28	35
A. Eggett	91, Dogsthorpe Road	7	7
N.I. Bland,	Walcot House, Eye	2	2
E.R. Notley,	91, Taverners Road	2	22
E.G. French,	142, Mayors Walk	17	92
M. Wood,	34, Summerfield Road	-	8
M.S. Gray,	5, Geneva Street,	-	99
Cases at Thorpe Road House		51	2

Totals:      336      473



In addition to these 809 cases, 34 births were notified from the Peterborough Memorial Hospital, and 14 from "Charnwood" Nursing Home.

Medical aid was summoned by the midwives on 80 occasions ( 61 for domiciliary cases and 19 for cases in institutions), viz., ruptured perinaeum 23; premature and feeble infants 10; delayed labour 8; haemorrhage 5; miscarriage 3; rise of temperature 3; retained placenta 2; discharge from baby's eye 2; uterine inertia 2; prolapsed cord 2; abnormal presentation 2; and for one of each of the following conditions :- umbilical hernia; rash; varicose veins; post-natal collapse; post-partum shock; severe abdominal pain; inflammation of breast, and abortion.

Thirty-seven claims were paid to doctors under the Midwives Act 1918. In 22 cases the amounts so paid were wholly recovered, and in 3 cases they were partially recovered. In 12 cases no recovery was considered advisable.

#### ANTE-NATAL EXAMINATIONS

By the end of the year only five of the 135 expectant mothers in the rural districts had been examined ante-natally, and only 4 post-natally. It must be remembered, however, that the majority of the women in the rural districts engage a doctor. Two of the five expectant mothers were examined twice. Three of the cases were normal in every respect. One had had two haemorrhages prior to the birth of the child and its presentation was faulty, and in the other there was a faulty presentation which righted itself. One of the women examined post-natally had a retroverted uterus which was easily replaced, another had a cystocele and rectocele, and the other two were normal in every respect.

#### CONSULTATIONS WITH OBSTETRIC SPECIALIST

During the year you appointed Dr E.C. Till of Stamford as your Obstetric Specialist. It was necessary to refer one case of sapraemia to him. She was admitted to the Peterborough Memorial Hospital, and recovered.

#### Dental Treatment

Two nursing mothers were provided with new dentures during the year. No pre-school children were treated in 1941.

#### CHILD LIFE PROTECTION ACT.

Two persons were receiving children for reward. The number of children on the Register was 12. The work of health visiting under the Act is carried out by Nurse Mc'Phillips. All infants are seen at frequent intervals, and all have good homes.

## VACCINATION

### Summary of Vaccination Officers' Returns

	<u>Peterboro'</u> <u>District</u>	<u>Eye</u> <u>District</u>	<u>Barnack</u> <u>District</u>
No: of births returned in Birth List Sheets, 1940.	748	70	11
Successfully Vaccinated.	189	11	2
Insusceptible of Vaccination	3	-	-
No: in respect of whom Statutory Declarations received:	474	53	8
Died Unvaccinated.	27	1	-
Postponement by medical certificate	10	-	-
Removed to other Districts	16	1	-
Removed to places unknown	24	2	1
No: of births remaining on 31st Jan: 1940 neither duly entered in Register or accounted for in Report Book:	5	2	-
Total number of certificates and copies of Certificates of Vacc'n of children under 14 rec'd during 1941	245	19	-
No: of Statutory Declarations of conscientious objection rec'd in 1941 :-	440	44	-

## MENTAL TREATMENT ACT

During the year 1941 eleven "Voluntary" patients were treated under the Mental Treatment Act at Rauceby Mental Hospital.  
No "Temporary" patients were admitted from the Soke of Peterborough.

## D E A T H S

There were 671 deaths in the County of the Soke of Peterborough, 347 being males, and 324 females, as compared with 736 in 1940, and 709 in 1939. This gives a death rate of 11.3.  
The death rate for England and Wales was 12.9; for the 126 Great Towns 14.9; for the 148 smaller towns 13.0, and for London 16.3.

There was one death in a man aged 100. He died from burns.  
There were 5 deaths in persons over 90, 4 being women and one a man. Death was ascribed to senility in two female cases and to myocarditis in the other two women. The male died from cerebral thrombosis.  
There were 8 deaths from suicide, 6 in men and 2 in women. The ages of the two women were 41 and 69. The first poisoned herself with phenobarbitone. The second killed herself by coal gas poisoning.  
Three men killed themselves by drowning, aged 34, 54, and 56 years; two by hanging at the ages of 75 and 19, and a youth of 17 laid his head on the railway line and was killed by an engine.  
I record 13 deaths from violence and accidents, 11 in men and 2 in women. A man of 100 was burnt to death, a boy of 16 was accidentally drowned, a man fractured his skull in an aeroplane accident, and another fractured his skull by contact with a railway bridge.  
3 died from fracture of the spine, one woman falling from an upstairs window, another from the fall of bricks, and another from crushing by a machine.



Two men were killed by gunshot wounds - one was accidental, and in the other the person who killed the man was acquitted both of murder and of manslaughter. Intracranial haemorrhage due to a fall from a machine was the cause of death in a man of 55. An elderly man of 82 died from a fractured collar bone, and an elderly woman of 72 from a fractured hip. Haemorrhage from a crushed hip was the cause of death in a man of 30. In addition 10 deaths were due to motor accidents, 9 in males, and 1 in a female. War operations caused 28 deaths in males varying from 69- 20.

According to the Registrar-General there were 96 deaths from cancer, as compared with 93 in 1940; 86 in 1939; 95 in 1938, and 83 in 1937. I have records of 99 cases, 43 being males and 51 females.

In 58 the alimentary system was the site of the cancer. The following were the organs affected: the stomach in 19 ( 10 being males and 9 females); the colon or large intestine in 19 ( 9 males and 10 females); the rectum or back passage in 7 ( 5 males and 2 females); the liver in 5 ( 1 male and 4 females); the pancreas in 1 man, and the caecum in 1 male and 1 female; the tonsil in one male, and the gullett in one male and one female, and the peritoneum in one male.

The genito-urinary tract was affected in 15, 8 being males ( the bladder, kidney, penis, and prostate being the organs affected, and 7 females, the organs affected being the womb in 3, and the ovary in 4.

There were 12 cases of death from cancer of the breast in women.

There were four cases of cancer of the lung, 2 in males and 2 in females.

The glandular system was affected in 2 males, the glands of the neck being the site of the disease in both. A rodent ulcer was the cause of death in one male, and the spine in one man and one woman. The jaw was affected in one male.

I have records of 50 deaths among infants under 1 year of age ( 30 being males and 20 females). The Registrar-General records 49.

I shall deal with these under the heading of " Infant Mortality."

Apart from these there were 37 deaths ( 21 males and 16 females) between the ages of 1 and 20 years, viz., eight between the ages of 1 and 2 years; two aged 2 years; seven aged 3 years; five aged 4 years; one aged 5 years; two aged 6 years; one aged 7 years; one aged 8 years; two aged 12 years; one aged 15 years; two aged 16 years; one aged 17, and three aged 19 years.

Seven of these deaths were caused by tuberculous meningitis, 7 by broncho-pneumonia, 2 by whooping cough, 2 by diphtheria, 2 by suicide, 2 by appendicitis, 2 by fractured skull due to accidents, 1 to pulmonary tuberculosis, 1 to cerebral tumour, 1 to portal pyaemia, and one to each of the following conditions :- asphyxia from accidental drowning, perforation of gastric ulcer, measles, lobar pneumonia, encephalitis and gastro-enteritis, tuberculous peritonitis, diabetes, nephritis, and meningitis.

The Registrar-General records four deaths in pregnant women from "other maternal causes". I have records of two deaths, one in a woman aged 23 from toxæmia, and another in a woman aged 26 which occurred from obstetric shock. The first was treated in the Peterborough Memorial Hospital; the other in her own home.

This is not such a good result as last year, when only one death occurred.

The Registrar-General records 149 deaths from heart disease.

I record 154 cases, however, in which it appears that the heart or blood vessels were implicated. 88 cases were assigned to myocarditis, 40 males and 48 females. 16 deaths were due to sudden shutting off of the coronary blood supply to the heart muscle, 12 being males and 4 females.



Disease of the aortic valves of the heart was recorded in one man and two women, and mitral disease in 8 males and 11 females. High blood pressure was the cause of death in one woman. Three men died from aneurism, two being of the aorta, and one of the basilar artery supply to the brain. The term "endocarditis" was used in four certificates, 2 being males and 2 females. Cardio-vascular degeneration caused the death of 3 males and 1 female. Pericarditis caused the death of a young man of 20, and a woman of 47. The vague term "valvular disease" was used on one male certificate, and embolism of the pulmonary artery caused the death of one woman. The figures show that heart disease is the captain of the men of death, exceeding cancer and tuberculosis, but so far no public service has been constituted to combat this disease.

There were four deaths among syphilitics. One, in a man of 51, in an asylum from general paralysis of the insane, one from ruptured aneurism in a man with tertiary syphilis. Neither of these had been under my care. A death occurred in a man of 49 who had locomotor ataxia. He had done well under my treatment until he developed bronchitis. The other death occurred in a woman who had just begun treatment for tertiary syphilis. She died in the Peterborough Memorial Hospital from sudden bleeding from the stomach.

I record 8 deaths from diabetes, 3 in males and 5 in females. This figure tallies with that of the Registrar-General. One of these deaths occurred in a youth of 16, another in a woman aged 31 years. A death occurred in a man aged 34, who, in addition to diabetes, was suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. All the other deaths occurred in elderly persons.

The Registrar-General records two deaths from appendicitis, one in a man and one in a woman.

I have records of two deaths, one in a youth of 19 and another in an evacuee, who died under the anaesthetic.

#### INFANT MORTALITY

According to the Registrar-General there were 49 deaths among infants under one year of age - a mortality rate of 57.1, as compared with a rate of 52.3 in 1940; 56.9 in 1939; and 44.9 in 1938.

The infant mortality rate in England and Wales as a whole was 59; in the 126 Great Towns 71; in the 148 smaller towns 56, and in London 68. Our rate is, therefore, satisfactory.

I find from my records 50 deaths (30 males and 20 females), the causes being as follows :-

Haematemesis Neonatorum	1
Prematurity	18
Broncho-Pneumonia	11
Atelectasis	2
Meningitis	1
Convulsions	1
Whooping Cough	2
Hydrocephalus	2
Cellulitis of scrotum	1
Bronchitis	1
Congenital Heart Disease	2
Congenital obliteration of bile ducts	1
Malformation of intestine	1
Pyloric Stenosis	2
Injuries during birth	3
Hernia of liver and intestines	1



The length of life of these 50 infants varied from 10 minutes to 12 months. Fifteen of the 50 died before they had lived one day. 14 died under one week, and 21 died from one month to 12 months of age. The number of deaths from pneumonia - 11 cases - is rather disconcerting in view of the newer remedies now available.

Two children died from atelectasis, one from meningitis, one from convulsions, two from whooping cough, one from bronchitis, one from cellulitis of the scrotum, and two from pyloric stenosis. It is disappointing to note that three died from injuries at birth, 18 from prematurity, 2 more from malformation of the heart, two from hydrocephalus, and 3 from other malformations.

Possibly very skillful midwifery might have saved the 3 who died from injuries at birth, but our present knowledge, or ignorance, does not enable us to save the remaining 25, or 50% of the total number.

#### HEALTH VISITING

During the year the health visiting in the Soke of Peterborough (outside the City) was efficiently performed by Miss M. Mc'Phillips. She made 120 first visits to infants under one year of age, and the total number of visits to infants amounted to 566.

120 visits were paid to expectant mothers, 68 of these being first visits. 642 visits were paid to children between 1 and 5 years of age. Altogether 1,328 visits were made, as compared with 1,448 last year. It should be noted that Nurse Mc'Phillips is School Nurse, Visitor to mental defectives, and assists for about six hours a week at the Venereal Diseases Clinic.

The cards of the 120 infants visited for the first time during the year were examined in detail. It appears that five of these were stillborn. One was a premature twin, and in the other cases the cause of the stillbirth was unknown.

Sixty-four of the live born infants were brought up on the breast, 27 on the bottle, and 16 were first fed on the breast and then on the bottle. In 8 no record was made.

Of the bottle fed babies, 16 were brought up on cows' milk, 8 on Ostermilk, 2 on "Cow and Gate", and one on Nestle's milk.

Ninety-eight of the live born infants were healthy, sturdy youngsters; 9 were not thriving, and 8 died. Two of these were premature twins, who only lived for a few hours, 3 died from prematurity, one from haematemesis neonatorum, one from birth injuries, one from cellulitis of scrotum, and one from congenital malformation.

Three of the 9 infants who were not thriving were breast fed, or 4.7 per cent of the total breast fed, and 6 were bottle fed, or 22 per cent of the total bottle fed.

Comforters or dummy teats were used in 16 cases; they were not used in 89, and in 10 no record was made.

95 of the 115 living babies had a separate cot, 4 slept in the same bed as their parents, and in 16 cases no record was made on this point.

The infants' clothing was found to be satisfactory in 99 cases; in 8 it was described as poor or only fair, and in 8 no record was made.

An enquiry was made into the state of the mothers' health.

In 18 cases it was not satisfactory. 10 mothers had bad teeth, but most of these declined to avail themselves of dental treatment.

One mother was very anaemic, 4 suffered from chronic constipation, 1 from asthma, 1 from prolapsed uterus, one mother had had puerperal fever, and one puerperal septicaemia.

Three of the mothers were described as dirty and slovenly.



Limited sleeping accommodation was reported in 6 cases, viz.,

10	persons	sleeping	in	3	bedrooms	1	case
7	"	"	"	2	"	1	"
6	"	"	"	2	"	2	cases
5	"	"	"	1	bedroom	2	"

Three of the houses were described as dirty and illkept.

#### PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

There were as many as 18 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis, 14 being men, and 4 women. The Registrar-General records 19 deaths, and he may have included a death in an evacuee from Kent. This is a great increase on last year's figure, when only 8 deaths were recorded. Taking the figure as 18 deaths, the mortality rate per 1000 of the population is 0.3 per 1000.

The first of the deaths occurred in a man of 64 years. He was first notified in 1939. He had old standing disease of the right lung and was doing well until broncho-pneumonia set in. He was treated by me.

The second case occurred in a man of 60, who for many years had been lodging in a house where the father of the family had suffered from tuberculous disease of the testicle and spine, and where a son and daughter had both been treated successfully by artificial pneumothorax treatment. He was sent by you to St John's Hospital, where he died.

The third case was that of a man of 50, notified in April 1940. He was also a case of long standing disease of the right lung. He was doing well until tuberculous meningitis set in.

The fourth case was that of a man who had recently migrated from Huntingdonshire. I had examined him, but failed to find any definite evidence of tuberculous disease, nor could the doctor who certified his death give me any confirmatory evidence of value. The fifth death occurred in a man of 60, who was treated first at home and then at St John's Hospital.

The sixth case was notified from the Peterborough Memorial Hospital. He was then very seriously ill, but he began to improve after a long period of rest. I then treated him by artificial pneumothorax, but he did not respond to this form of treatment.

The next case was that of a woman who had been treated for several months for tonsillitis. She had, however, tuberculous disease of the tonsils, soft palate, and lungs, and, as always, in these fortunately rare cases, she died. I have only had one such other case. It is interesting to note that these cases were brought to the notice of the Profession by a Laryngologist well known in Peterborough, Sir St. Clair Thomson. He saw the first of these two cases.

The next death occurred in a man of 67, who was first notified in July 1920. He gave a history suggestive of disease of many years standing even then. He had had several periods of Sanatorium treatment, and for the whole 21 years was under my care.

The next case was a young woman of 24. She had been undergoing treatment since 1936 by artificial pneumothorax. Unfortunately she developed a purulent pleurisy. She was transferred to Creton, where a drainage tube was inserted. She came home and did well, till she developed acute inflammation of the kidneys, from which she died.



The next death was in a young girl of 19. It was a case of extreme severity complicated by a natural pneumothorax. An attempt was made to convert the natural into an artificial pneumothorax, but it failed. She was treated in St John's Hospital, but had to be removed to her home when it was found impossible to continue treatment of tuberculous cases in that Institution.

The next case, a sailor aged 54, died at St John's Hospital. He had had the disease for years, the heart being misplaced to the right side owing to the contraction of the diseased right lung.

The next case was brought to my notice by Dr Fulton, who was treating him for diabetes. Unfortunately tuberculosis of the lungs supervened, and as these cases are of very serious outlook an artificial pneumothorax was produced by me. Unfortunately the disease spread to the other lung and he died in his own home.

The next case was brought to my notice by Dr Wills. He had just been admitted to St John's Hospital. He died the day after I saw him with disease in both lungs.

The next death was that of a woman of 43. I considered that the only hope for her was a thoracoplasty operation at Creton. This she refused.

The next case was in a soldier of 44. He was sent by you to Eversfield, but owing to the War had to be evacuated. He had been passed A.1., showed no signs of disease on ordinary examination, but on X-ray examination both lungs were found to be affected. Unfortunately he developed disease of the larynx, and he died at his home in Evesham under my care.

Of the next three deaths I have no personal knowledge. Two of them occurred in inmates of Asylums from tuberculous broncho-pneumonia, and the other in a town far distant from Peterborough in a man of 50. It is interesting to note that 14 of the deaths occurred in middle aged or elderly persons, and that two of the four young persons were mentally afflicted.

Thirty-one cases of pulmonary tuberculosis ( 23 males and 8 females) including 3 " Supplementary" notifications, were notified during the year, and were treated as follows :-

- 1). A case of tuberculosis in a young man of 23, who was resident in an Asylum. He died shortly after notification.
- 2). A young lady of 18. Her father was also suffering from consumption. She was treated by artificial pneumothorax, and is now back at work.
- 3). A youth of 16, with advanced disease. His sister was in a similar plight, and another had died from tuberculous meningitis. He went to Creton but was discharged as incurable.
- 4). A fitter, aged 40, who had considerable disease in one lung, with tubercle bacilli in the sputum. He was treated by me by artificial pneumothorax. He is doing well and is back at work.
- 5). A man of 55, with long standing and extensive disease in both lungs. He is being treated by me in his comfortable home, and is doing very fairly well.



- 6). An evacuee girl aged 6, with tuberculous pleurisy. She was sent by you to Stamford Infirmary, did well, and is now under Dispensary supervision.
- 7). A case of long standing disease in a dental mechanic aged 55. In past years he had an artificial pneumothorax performed together with a phrenic evulsion. He presented signs of disease in both lungs and also in his larynx. He was treated at first by absolute rest in an open-air shelter. He did well, and in 1942 went to Ventnor, where I am informed the absolute rest will be continued for another 6 months and thoracoplasty will then be performed.
- 8). A woman of 44. She had advanced disease, but I thought she might improve if surgical treatment at Creton was attempted. She refused this treatment, and died during the year.
- 9). A man of 38, with disease in both lungs and tuberculous disease of the right shoulder. For the last mentioned condition a splint was made, but could not be applied. I treated him at home in an open-air shelter. Subsequently he went to Stamford Infirmary. The outlook is poor as it appears that the intestinal tract is involved.
- 10). A man of 31 with advanced disease in both lungs and tubercle bacilli in the sputum. He had worked as a sand blaster. He was seen by the Medical Inspector under the Silicosis Act, to whom the X-ray photographs were sent. He granted the pension, but seemed rather uncertain about the silicotic X-ray appearances. He was treated in an open-air shelter by me. He died early in 1942, and post-mortem examination revealed silicosis and tuberculosis.
- 11). Was a new comer to the City of Peterborough. He was a Steward in a Political Club, and his compartment in those premises was without satisfactory ventilation. In these circumstances Sanatorium treatment at Creton was given, and he has derived unexpected benefit.
- 12). Occurred in a youth of 19. He had considerable disease in one lung with tubercle bacilli in his sputum. He was treated by me by artificial pneumothorax in his comfortable home, has done well, and is now back at work.
- 13). A youth of 18, who had recently come to the City of Peterborough to work in munitions, and was in lodgings. His parents decided to remove him to his home in the South of England.
- 14). A single man of 36, with considerable disease in one lung, and tubercle bacilli in the sputum. He did not like the idea of going to a Sanatorium, was treated by me by artificial pneumothorax, and has done very fairly well.
- 15). Was a Clergyman. When I first saw him he had a very severe attack of pleurisy. I did not advise aspiration, and with prolonged rest he did well and is now back at work.



- 16). A dental mechanic of 32. He was referred to us by the Essex County Council, both lungs as well as the larynx being involved. He had had sanatorium treatment and was under Dispensary supervision. He did not do well, and was sent in 1942 to Brumby Sanatorium in the Lindsey Division of Lincolnshire.
- 17). A woman of 35 with advanced disease in both lungs, and tubercle bacilli in the sputum. She has been treated by me in her home, but has made no progress.
- 18). A diabetic man of 54 with serious lung disease. As I have said elsewhere in this Report, he was treated by artificial pneumothorax, but failed to respond to treatment and died during the year.
- 19). Was a transfer from Hull, who took up residence in the same Political Club as No. 11. He was an extremely advanced case, with tubercle bacilli in the sputum. He had lost most of his toes from frostbite during the War 1914-18. He was sent by you to Brumby Hospital.
- 20). Was a case of blood spitting in a young man of 24. He was sent by you to Creaton Sanatorium.
- 21). A man of 41 with a cavity at the right apex and tubercle bacilli in the sputum. He was treated by rest in bed in his home, gold injections, and has made satisfactory progress.
- 22). A man of 35, who was first notified as far back as February 1929. He was sent to a Sanatorium and did<sup>so</sup> well that some years ago I considered he was cured. In October of 1941 he had a relapse. Tubercle bacilli were found in his sputum, which had not been found in 1929. He was treated by rest in bed by me.
- 23). Was a soldier notified from Papworth. He has disease in the lungs and peritoneum. He was still in residence at the end of 1941.
- 24). A married woman of 25. She had serious disease with cavitation and laryngeal disease. A left sided artificial pneumothorax was produced by me. An adhesion was present, and in 1942 she was sent to Creaton.
- 25). Was her daughter, aged 3, who reacted positively to the Tuberculin Patch test, and showed X-ray signs of the disease. She was sent to Creaton Sanatorium and has done well.
- 26). A young married woman of 23. She had considerable disease in the left lung with tubercle bacilli in the sputum. She was treated by me by artificial pneumothorax in her own home and has made good progress.
- 27). A man of 50, who was admitted to St John's Hospital. He died the day after I saw him.
- 28). Was a laboratory worker aged 30. He was treated by me by artificial pneumothorax, and is now back at work.
- 29). Was a man of 54, with severe laryngeal disease. He was sent by you to Creaton, but died in January 1942.



30). Was a soldier notified from Preston Hall Colony. I have not seen him.

31). A youth of 15, with serious disease in both lungs. His sister had recently died of the same disease. He was sent to Creaton, and died there.

### Institutional Treatment

On January 1st 1941 twelve persons were in Institutions, viz.,  
7 at Manfield Orthopaedic Hospital, Northampton,  
1 at Creaton Sanatorium, Northampton,  
4 at St John's Hospital, Peterborough.

During the year 20 persons were admitted to Institutions, viz.,  
11 to Creaton Sanatorium, Northampton,  
4 to Manfield Orthopaedic Hospital, Northampton,  
4 to Stamford & Rutland General Infirmary,  
1 to Brumby Tuberculosis Hospital, Scunthorpe.

On December 31st 1941 fifteen persons were still in Institutions, viz.,  
7 at Manfield Orthopaedic Hospital, Northampton,  
5 at Creaton Sanatorium,  
1 at Stamford & Rutland General Infirmary,  
1 at Brumby Tuberculosis Hospital,  
1 at St John's Hospital, Peterborough.

### NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

The following cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year, and were dealt with as follows :-

The first case occurred in a boy of 5. He had enlarged glands, which were considered to be septic and not tuberculous.

The second case occurred in a woman of 38. The sixth rib was affected. She was treated privately.

The next case was one of tuberculous disease of the testicles in a soldier. He was sent by you to Stamford Infirmary. He has done well.

A youth of 17 had tuberculous glands. He was seen by me, and operated on at the Peterborough Memorial Hospital.

An evacuee girl of 13 who had been billeted in a house where there was a positive sputum case. She died of tuberculous meningitis in the Peterborough Memorial Hospital.

A boy of 4 died of tuberculous meningitis. His father has since been found to have tuberculosis of his lungs.

A girl of 18 had tuberculous glands. She was treated privately.

The next case was notified as spinal tuberculosis when he was at the Peterborough Memorial Hospital. He was a youth of 19. He was sent to the Manfield Orthopaedic Hospital, where, after some time, the disease was said to be of rheumatic origin.

The next cases were notified as cases of tuberculous glands. They wished to be treated privately. They were women of 35 and 58 years, and were operated on at home.

The next case was one of tuberculous meningitis in a boy aged 1 year and 8 months. He died in the Peterborough Memorial Hospital.

The next case was one of tuberculous disease of the spine in a girl aged 3. She was sent by you to the Manfield Orthopaedic Hospital, where she died from meningitis during the year.



The next case was one of tuberculous peritonitis in a probationer nurse aged 19 on the staff of the Peterborough Memorial Hospital. She returned to her own home.

The next was a case of tuberculous glands in a woman of 55. She was treated at the Peterborough Memorial Hospital.

The next case was one of tuberculous glands in a girl aged 3 years. She has been sent by you to Stamford Infirmary.

The next case was referred to you by the Naval Authorities.

He was a youth of 19 with sacro-iliac disease. He was sent to Stamford Infirmary. The outlook is not promising.

The next case was one of tuberculous peritonitis in a girl aged 4.

She was admitted to the Peterborough Memorial Hospital, where she died.

The next case occurred in a soldier who was notified from Papworth as suffering from tuberculous peritonitis.

The last case was a transfer from Nottingham. She was a pitiable case, nearly every joint in the body being involved. She was transferred back to Nottinghamshire by the Public Assistance Committee.

There were ten deaths from non-pulmonary tuberculosis. All of these, with one exception ( a case of peritonitis in a girl aged 4 years) were due to tuberculous meningitis.

Two of the deaths were in evacuee children.

#### Dispensary Work

The following work has been carried out at the Dispensary at 28, Fitzwilliam Street, Peterborough.

370 patients were examined during the year, as compared with 358 in 1940. 236 of these 370 were new cases, and 134 were old cases notified in previous years.

3,067 examinations of these patients were made, 1,366 at the Dispensary, and 1,701 in the homes of the patients, as compared with 2,878 examinations in 1940.

725 artificial pneumothorax inductions and refills were undertaken, as compared with 419 in 1940. It is fortunate that with the shortage of sanatorium accommodation there have been several cases in which this form of treatment was possible in the patient's home. 183 X-ray photographs were taken.

231 samples of sputum and other material were examined for the tubercle bacillus; 195 of these were negative, and 36 positive.

117 consultations were held with medical men, 18 in the homes of the patients, and 99 otherwise.

On December 31st 1941 170 persons were on the Tuberculosis Register, as compared with 156 in 1940, comprising 132 adults suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, and 5 children. 27 adults and 6 children were suffering from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.



## VENEREAL DISEASES

191 patients attended the Clinic at 28, Fitzwilliam Street, Peterborough for the first time during 1941. In addition, 48 patients attended for the first time at your Clinic who had been treated at other centres for the same infection. Altogether then 237 cases were treated by me for the first time, as compared with 144 in 1940. 58 of these 237 were cases of syphilis, 1 was a case of soft chancre, 70 were cases of gonorrhoea, and 108 were found not to be suffering from syphilis, soft chancre, or gonorrhoea. There is, therefore, a considerable increase on last year's figures, when the numbers were 20 for syphilis, 1 for soft chancre, 46 for gonorrhoea, and 61 for non-venerereal conditions.

48 of the 237 cases were sent by the military authorities - 12 for syphilis, 22 for gonorrhoea, and 14 for non-venerereal conditions. It will be noted that the cases of syphilis have nearly trebled.

On January 1st 1941 130 cases of venereal disease were in attendance, 79 for syphilis, and 51 for gonorrhoea. In addition, 20 patients who, from one cause or another, had left off treatment or had been transferred to other centres, re-applied for treatment, so that 158 old cases were under treatment during the year. Therefore 387 new and old cases passed through my hands, as compared with 312 in 1940.

The places of residence of the 191 new patients who had never before been treated at other centres were :-

Soken of Peterborough	102
Huntingdonshire	40
Isle of Ely	18
Kesteven (Lincs)	4
Holland "	2
Northamptonshire	5
Service Cases	18
Other areas	2

Total :- 191

During the year 42 cases were transferred to other centres. 139 cases were discharged as cured, 5 for syphilis, 1 for soft chancre, 23 for gonorrhoea, and 105 for conditions other than venereal disease, and one patient died owing to bleeding from the stomach.

Much extra work has been caused by a disease which has recently come to the front, chiefly in women - Trichomona infestation. This ailment has not been much known to the Profession until about ten years ago. It develops sometimes after sexual intercourse, as the organism is an inhabitant of the male prostate gland. On the other hand, it has been described in virgins. It is frequently associated with gonorrhoea. It is not yet classified officially as a venereal disease, although in the great majority of cases it might be so classified. It is difficult to see where such cases could be treated except in V.D. Centres, for it requires special apparatus and drugs to treat it effectively, and frequent microscopical examinations to see if the disease is really cured. One young woman in the primary stage of syphilis gave up treatment after one attendance. She became pregnant, but the baby died. She was frequently visited to persuade her to attend.

Two cases in the secondary stage, one in the latent stage, ten in later stages, and six hereditary cases ceased to attend before completion of cure. 25 cases of gonorrhoea discharged themselves before I had ceased to treat them, and 3 more before final tests of cure.



156 cases were still under treatment at the end of the year, viz., 93 for syphilis, 60 for gonorrhoea, and 3 for other conditions.

The 387 patients ( 198 males and 189 females) who attended the Clinic during the year made 5,688 attendances, as compared with 6,087 in 1940, and 7,119 in 1939. The decrease in the number of attendances is due to the larger number of syphilitic patients, who only need attend once, or at most twice, a week and to lesser need for the intermediate treatment of gonorrhoea.

The attendances, classified in counties, were as follows :-

Soke of Peterborough	3,657
Huntingdonshire	1,180
Isle of Ely	466
Kesteven ( Lincs)	220
Holland "	54
Northamptonshire	199
Service Cases	185
Other Areas	18
<u>Total</u>	<u>5,688</u>

No in-patient treatment was given.

1,488 doses of arsenical compounds were administered, the great majority intravenously. 1,395 doses of Bismuth were administered intramuscularly.

1,023 samples of material obtained from patients attending the Clinic were examined at an approved Laboratory. Five of these were for the examination of spirochaetes - the organism causing syphilis; 371 for the gonococcus, 312 examinations of the blood for syphilis, comprising 310 Wassermann and 8 Kahn tests; 15 examinations of the cerebro-spinal fluid, and 152 examinations for the blood test for gonorrhoea. 86 samples of urine were examined for the gonococcus and other organisms.

77 examinations were made for Trichomonas, and 5 for cultures of the gonococcus.

Six samples were also sent by medical practitioners.

During the year you informed the Ministry of Health that in your opinion treatment should be enforced by compulsion.

#### MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS 1913 and 1938.

On January 1st 1942 seventy-eight persons ( 44 males and 34 females) were under Statutory Supervision. Nine persons were under Guardianship, 4 being males and 5 females - three less than last year. Two males have been discharged, and one female admitted to the Public Assistance Institution. She suffers from severe rectal prolapse.

During the year 71 defectives were resident in the following institutions :- 43 ( 21 males and 22 females) were in the Peterborough Public Assistance Institution: 20 ( 11 males and 9 females) were at Stoke Park Colony: 3 females were at Whittington Hall Institution: 1 female at Sandlebridge Institution, Cheshire: 4 ( 2 males and 2 females) were in the State Institution at Rampton.



One male and two females were in receipt of Poor Law Relief and were resident at the Peterborough Public Assistance Institution. Two males were on Licence from Besford Court Institution and were accommodated at Thorpe Road House. Neither of them proved very satisfactory, and arrangements have now been completed for transferring them to Hostels.

Turning to the cases under Guardianship, one youth is employed in the brickworks and is earning over £2 a week. He is doing yeoman service in the Home Guard. One of the men is at work on the roads, and the other does most useful work as assistant porter to the Public Assistance Institution.

A fine young man has until recently been employed in pulling down the air raid precaution shelters, and has done his work to the complete satisfaction of his employers. Can we say the same for the gentleman who designed them?

In this connection I would point out that it is daily becoming obvious that much of the routine work of the world can be done as well, if not better, by the mental defective than the highly educated. The product of the secondary school becomes bored to death by the mass productive methods of modern industry. Much of the domestic work of public and private establishments is now undertaken by defectives, and many of them are found to do one or two jobs extremely well. They lack adaptability, and must be treated with consideration by their employers, but allowing for these limitations there is an important place to be filled by the feeble minded.

Mr Aldous Huxley has gone so far as to suggest in his book " Brave New World" the deliberate breeding of the mentally retarded, who would undertake all the boring and mechanical work of the community. Certain War Agricultural Committees have organised hostels for male defectives on Licence from certified Institutions, who have proved themselves to be excellent agricultural workers.

The third defective under Guardianship suffers from epileptic fits, but is able to blow the organ in one of the Peterborough Churches, and runs errands for his relation. The fourth is a partially blind Mongolian imbecile, who is unable to do work of any kind.

One of the five women under Guardianship is too defective to do work of any kind, and when visited by your Officers hides in a cupboard and refuses to answer any questions. Two others do all the work of the household under adult supervision. Another worked for some time on one of the canteens, but was not up to the work of rush hours and is now working in a confectioners. One woman is under the Guardianship of the Sisters of Charity at St. Elizabeth's School, Exeter. She is employed in the laundry.

Few of those under Statutory Supervision are doing useful work. Eleven of the 34 women are able to perform useful house work. One of these has unfortunately developed pulmonary tuberculosis. She was treated at first by artificial pneumothorax by me, but as she had adhesions she was transferred to Creaton Sanatorium. Another works on the land.

One of the 44 male defectives joined the Royal Air Force. Six are now working on farms, 2 are working on the roads, one is working as a hawker, one in a shop, one on the railway, one in a boot shop, one in the gravel pits, one in a factory, and one in the brickyards. The great majority are well cared for, but in one instance medical treatment for congenital syphilis was refused. Attendance at 28, Fitzwilliam Street has ceased, both for the defective and for his sister, who is going blind.



The following reports from various institutions show how your defectives are faring :-

W.J.K. Aged 23. Has now been discharged on Licence to the Peterborough Public Assistance Institution.

W.R. Aged 23. Has also been discharged on Licence to the Peterborough Public Assistance Institution. Arrangements are being made for these two patients to be sent to a Hostel.

K.M.W. Aged 29. Is a female idiot, with a mental age of less than 3 years. She plays with beads, but makes no progress educationally.

E.W. Aged 29. Is capable of light domestic duties, such as sweeping and scrubbing. She attends religious services, and as recreations walks in the country, and goes to cinemas. She is a low grade feeble minded woman with long-standing cardiac trouble.

D.H. Aged 17. Her intelligence quotient is 54, and her mental age  $7\frac{1}{2}$  years. She has improved during the last year, and possibly now has reached the limit of improvement. Her rug making and sewing are better.

J.H. Aged 17. Twin sister of D.H. Has also improved and has reached perhaps the limit of improvement. Her rug making and sewing have improved.

K.E. Aged  $17\frac{1}{2}$ . Is imbecile and has made no noticeable improvement. She is dirty in habits and untidy, and makes no industrial or educational progress. She is simple, childish, and destroys her clothes.

J.F. Aged 19. Is an imbecile with a mental age of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  years. He is employed in the tailor's shop and is making good progress.

J.C.F. Aged 20. Is feeble minded. His mental age is 7.8 years. He is employed in boot repairing and is making good progress.

A.M.S. Aged 7. Is an idiot with a mental age of 1.11 years, and an intelligence quotient of 29. She is incontinent and destructive and has made no educational or industrial progress.

P.A.G. Aged 7. Is an idiot with a mental age of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  years. She is epileptic and is restless and destructive. She can build with cubes.

D.P. Aged 8. A feeble minded girl. She has improved and her intelligence quotient is now 74. She is well behaved.

H.B. Aged 15. Is feeble minded with a mental age of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  years. He goes to school for half a day, is learning to write, and can read three letter words. He works half his time in the tailor's shop. His general conduct is good.



- E.A. Aged 42. Is a low grade imbecile woman who does simple house and industry work. She is obstinate, moody, and sullen, and suffers from rheumatism.
- A.L. Aged 42. Is a low grade imbecile woman. Does simple house and industry work. Excitable at times and takes little interest in surrounding activities.
- M.C.C. Aged 29. Is a feeble minded woman with a mental age of 8.4 yrs. Household duties and needlework are well performed.
- A.E.T. Aged 55. A high grade imbecile woman. She makes no noticeable progress and performs simple house work. Dirty in habits and would be easily influenced. She is obese, deaf, and squints.
- J.S. Aged 33. An imbecile man with a mental age of less than 3 yrs. His speech is unintelligible. He performs simple handwork, but destroys his clothes. Cannot read or write. He has a tumour of his parotid gland.
- M.S. Aged 16. An imbecile girl. She attends school at Stoke Park Colony. Her handwork is improving but her reading and writing are poor. She cannot be taught arithmetic.
- G.K. Aged 16. An imbecile boy with a mental age of 6.10 years. Is making slow progress in reading, writing, and arithmetic. He works in the tailor's shop for half a day and is making fair progress.
- H.M.R. Aged 15. Is a feeble minded boy with a mental age of 7½ yrs, and an intelligence quotient of 54. Is learning rug making and raffia work. His conduct is good.
- G.E.S. Aged 8. Is an imbecile boy with a mental age of 2.7 years, and an intelligence quotient of 54. He does simple handwork such as embroidering cards.
- L.A.W. Aged 11. Is a Mongolian Imbecile with a mental age of 3.8, and intelligence quotient of 35. Is receiving sensory training only.
- H.R.W. Aged 21. A low grade imbecile, and a mental age of 7.8 yrs. He works in the upholstery shop. His general conduct has deteriorated, and has been reported on two occasions for thieving.
- F.B.T. Aged 16. Suffers from epilepsy and is paralysed down the right side. Is imbecile with a mental age of 5½ yrs. He is kept occupied with simple handwork. His conduct and habits are good.
- H.W. Is an imbecile man aged 28, with a mental age of 6.4 years. He cannot read or write. He works in the kitchen and is well behaved.

Forty-five defectives ( 23 males and 22 females) are reported on by the Master of the Peterborough Public Assistance Institution. Seven men are employed in cleaning, two as joiners, two as painters, one in the boiler house, and one as a gardener. The others are unemployable owing to physical and mental defects. Recreation takes the form of pictures, wireless, dominoes, draughts, table tennis, card games, and walks. All except two attend religious services.



Twelve of the women are employed in housework, 3 assist in the kitchen, 3 in the laundry, one does needlework, and one is employed as matron's maid. Two are incapable of any form of employment. Their recreation consists of wireless, pictures, and going for walks.

Eighteen women and five men attend Miss White's classes at Thorpe Road House. The classes at Keeble's Chambers have been abandoned, and the few who did attend there have been transferred to Thorpe Road.

### BLIND PERSONS ACT

There were 108 blind persons on the register of the Peterborough Association for the Blind on March 31st 1942.

During the year 13 new cases were registered - 7 men and 6 women. Two men were transferred to other areas, and one woman was transferred into the Peterborough area.

Fifty-six blind persons were in receipt of domiciliary assistance, an increase of 5 on last year.

A pension of £6 per annum has been obtained through the Clothworkers Company for a blind woman.

1,705 visits have been paid to blind persons by the Secretary.

One man is learning Braille and one Moon type.

Two women have been made members of the Moon library for which the Association pays £1 each subscription.

Three persons have been examined and found not blind within the meaning of the Act, and put on the Observation Register.

Glasses have been paid for in each case.

The County Council made a grant of £2,150 to the Peterborough Blind Association during the year, including a grant of £50 in respect of mentally defective persons.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases of infectious disease were notified during the year 1941 :-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>City of Peterboro'</u>	<u>Peterboro' R.D.</u>	<u>Barnack R.D.</u>	<u>Total</u>
Typhoid	1	-	-	1
Paratyphoid	3	-	-	3
Scarlet Fever	80	9	2	91
Whooping Cough	191	16	10	217
Diphtheria	27	1	1	29
Erysipelas	11	-	-	11
Measles	521	81	80	682
Pneumonia	28	-	3	31
Puerperal Pyrexia	6	1	2	7
Totals :-	868	108	96	1,072



## Diphtheria Immunisation

I am proceeding to carry out diphtheria immunisation in the Peterborough and Barnack Rural Districts, and among children in the Secondary Schools in the City of Peterborough.

Up to June 30th 1942 the following had been immunised by me :-

<u>District</u>	<u>Age under 5.</u>	<u>5 yrs and over.</u>	<u>Total</u>
City of Peterborough	-	242	242
Peterborough Rural District	80	593	673
Barnack Rural District	49	168	217
Total :-	129	1,003	1,132.

## MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER 1928

Captain Townson reports that there are 1,073 cows in the designated herds, which by April 1942 had increased to 1,600.

35 of these are tuberculin tested animals.

In all but a very few cases the cows have been found to be clean and healthy, but there are still many unprofitable cows which should be eliminated.

The collection and transit of milk is unsatisfactory. The churns full of milk are placed on the road side, exposed to the sun, and the empty churns are thrown off the lorries into ditches, becoming damaged and rusty. Churns so treated are difficult to cleanse.

In August Captain Townson reported that the majority of the samples were unsatisfactory and showed the presence of B. Coli.

One case of tuberculosis was reported, but on examination the animal did not come within the Tuberculosis Order. Two further cases of tuberculosis have been reported on, one of which only showed evidence of tuberculosis on post-mortem examination.

## REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICER

Dr Hawes is Medical Officer of Health for the Barnack and Peterborough Rural Districts.

He reports that all the villages in both districts are scavenged both for night soil and household refuse by public scavenger, and that a public water supply is available for Barnack, Bainton, Pilsgate, Ashton, and Ufford from the bore at Barnack.

Thornhaugh has another public supply, which is chlorinated.

All villages in the Rural District of Peterborough obtain their water supply from the City of Peterborough. 26,310,000 gallons have been consumed.

In the Rural District there are 23 producers of milk, and in the Barnack Rural District 12. The methods of production are described as satisfactory.

A minor infectious disease Hospital has been established at the White House, St. Martin's, Stamford. Cases of measles, whooping cough, chicken pox, and mumps can be accommodated.

No reports have been received by the County Council from the City of Peterborough for the years 1939, 1940, and 1941.

CHRISTOPHER ROLLESTON.